

Nation

Crees get down at SKAL

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The land, the environment, everything...

Well, I would have thought the forestry case being suspended was the cat's meow, so to speak.

Yet, the gathering of Cree politicians in Montreal this week showed that Cree values have changed, at least in the past 20 years or so. No longer for the Crees is it, as American author Wendell Berry says, "to cherish what remains of the Earth and to foster its renewal is our only legitimate hope of survival." At least this may be the message that some of the leadership is sending out in regards to new dams like EMI on Cree land (see News, page 5).

But, everything's just talk and we have to be ready to move if the time is right, right? Never let it be said that the leadership isn't prepared to launch the EM-1 hydro-electric project as Hydro-Quebec's partner if the conditions favour the Crees. I can just hear the spin doctors leaping into action to defend the latest plans.

Perhaps it's time Larry House and others, who hit the campaign trail in the U.S. to battle Hydro-Quebec's Great Whale project, to start to tour the Cree communities telling of the plight of the Crees.

The mercury poisoning, the land lost forever, the encroachment on Cree land without consulting the Crees who lived on them, the health, social and environmental problems, the jobs guaranteed that never happened save for five, and the many, many promises that lie unfulfilled to this day.

Fortunately, the tour could be affordable since House and other Cree activists would have to visit only five communities. These five communities are the only ones who have any say it seems. The land doesn't belong to all Crees any more, is the message. Once again the reply is, "Of course; these are only discussions, but still we must be prepared to move fast. Either for or against..."

Surely a few supporters in each community could be found to temporarily house and feed Cree activists while they spread the word about those traditional Cree values and respect for the land that survives to this day. I know we found many down south to help us out.

It seems even as Crees were winning battles in the South we were being flanked.

The battleground is now in our very homes and communities. What shall happen to the environmental process?

The very Cree leadership that will sign an agreement has appointed the watchdogs, in effect giving a rubber stamp to any project.

I think what we need here is a Cree version of Greenpeace or the Sierra Club. A Cree lobbying group that translates into votes and action.

It is not that I am against building a dam per se, but that I want the people to have a strong voice in decisions affecting the land. In fact, the strongest possible. One where any Cree can join and work for the betterment of linuuschii. This is an effective method that works within the system as was shown in the Cree/Hydro-Quebec Great Whale struggle.

I am not talking about creating an entity that would necessarily target Cree leadership but rather any organization, entity, business or persons that wish to affect changes to linuuschii. An organized group of Crees based on environmental principles which would lobby, research, document, protest, conduct public relations campaigns both on and away from linuuschii. Something that would contact local newspapers, radio and TV media in the same way we did in the States. Newspapers like *La Sentinelle*, *L'Echo* and others. An organization that would promote Cree values and respect for the land to all whether they are Crees or non-Crees.

Its time has come. The duties of a chief may include other jobs that potentially place them in a conflict of interest when it comes to making an unbiased decision. It's time to bring things into the open. Crees have always protected the land and have fought to have a say in its development. We all know this, but as German poet and scientist Johann Wolfgang von Goethe said, "Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do."

I would be willing to see, with others, how such an as-yet-unnamed organization could be created so there would be a chapter in each community. Interested parties can call me at 514-272-3077.

by William Nicholls

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Getting down at SKAL
Photos: Neil Diamond
Design: Sylvia Tonnisco

reznotes

by Ndiamon

Our story begins sometime last April. SKAL (Swedish for "Manly Love," according to someone in our office who doesn't speak Swedish) contacted someone who's supposed to be in charge of tourism at the Grand Council headquarters. As is always the case for these things, it sat on someone's desk for months ignored and started to smell.

Finally after much waiting it was passed around and, somehow, some way, it landed on the desk of a good friend, confidant and also cousin of mine, George L. Diamond, two or three weeks before the Grand Opening. Diamond was understandably wary of taking on the project at so short a notice but, as always, he put all his energy into getting the show on.

He called me right away, "Can you line up some photos for a slide presentation?" "Sure, no problem man, consider it done." It was quiet for over a week with no word from Waskaganish. Four days before showtime the phone rang for me. It was George.

"Neil, man, I need your help!" he said, almost frantic. "The guy I'm working with has a black eye and I can't do this alone. I need you and I'll pay you."

"Cha-Ching!!!!" I thought. Easy money. I have my moments of naivete.

I cab it down to Cree Lodging (Sheraton) in downtown Montreal to meet him. In the lobby, of course, were a few chiefs milling around completely in their element where a cup of coffee sells for almost four Canadian dollars and a phone call out of the suites will cost you a buck.

I enter his room and spread out all over the bed are envelopes full of cash to pay for performers, teepee poles, transportation, meals and he's on the phone. "I'm going crazy here man," he says by way of greeting. "The teepees for the show were supposed to have been lined up, the Grand Chief was supposed to have been confirmed, the dancers from Waswanipi haven't called back and we don't have drummers yet! And the Eastmain dance team aren't here yet."

He gave me a few numbers to call. "Where's this and where's that? Where are they?? Who's got teepee poles in Montreal? Bing! The Mohawks! The Mohawks?? The Mohawk didn't have teepees, they had longhouses." Whatever, so he calls Kahnawake and like a sign from heaven, it just so happens that at that very moment

three Cree trappers from Waskaganish are on the rez trapping and feasting on Mohawk beaver. Harharhar. Thanks to the Mohawk beaver surplus our teepee problem is solved. Everything will be delivered if they can find a truck long enough for Cree poles.

I leave him on the first night and he's still on the phone arguing with one of the organizers and defending his credibility. I leave disgusted after being called a liar. I don't need this crap.

It's getting closer and closer to showtime and George hasn't slept enough and he's getting testy. I'm going to wait for that guy's eye to clear up and I'll give him another black eye, he half jokes.

The Eastmain dancers, after a two-hour wait, are finally gathered in one room to rehearse. They go through their routine with little energy but they show flashes of what's to come. Fiddler Roger Weapenicappo has his Algonquin backup band ready to go from the sound of their tunes.

At 3:30 Monday morning a small group has gathered in the Cree Lodging lobby to take the poles to the Montreal Congress Centre and only one Chief, Kenny Gilpin, has the energy to get up. Our teepee erection engineer Sherman Herodier has his team with him. Even some performers show up to help. The teepee is up and ready for the show before anyone can have a cup of coffee.

The countdown has begun and the slide show isn't ready. Other minor details have to be worked out and bank deposits from various sponsors have yet to be made.

One hour before showtime and most of the performers are dressed and ready to go. Finally Ernest Webb, Mawstah of Ceremonies, is introduced and the show begins. Matthew Coon Come and Ashley Iserhoff keep their speeches thankfully short and sweet. Francine Weistche starts the show and she kills them. Robert Bobbish gets up before an old crowd but does okay with his heavy music. Pow Wow dancers are treated like stars after their dance by the mostly foreign audience who pose for pictures with them in full costume. The Eastmain dancers strut their stuff and the crowd goes nearly wild after their 10-minute set. Someone later asks incredulously, "How can they dance like that for 10 minutes?!"

The show ends and I run off to see my doctor for a checkup and George is still working. Poor guy.

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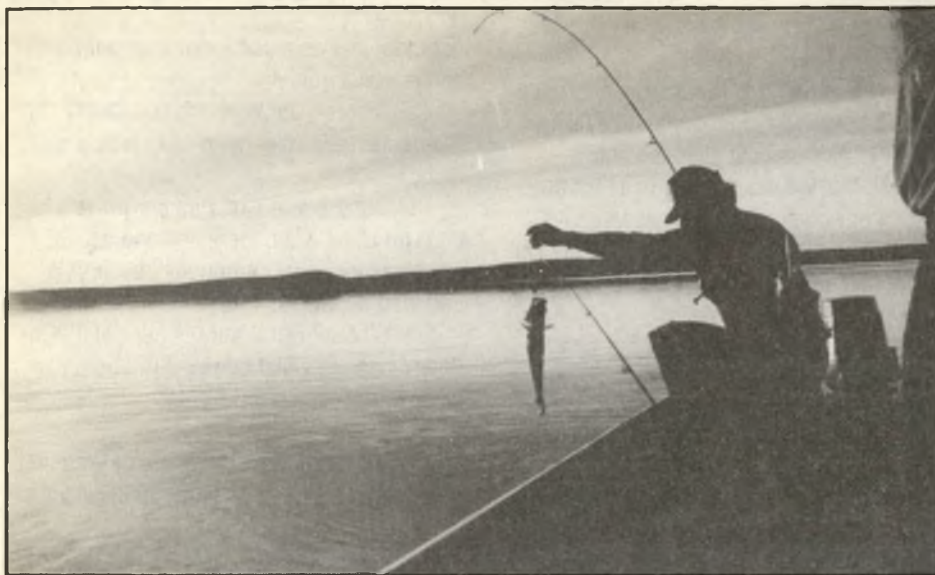
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Nation



GROWING PUSH FOR DEAL ON HYDRO PROJECT

Chiefs scrambled off to an emergency meeting in Montreal last week to discuss a partnership deal with Hydro-Quebec on the proposed 1,280-megawatt Eastmain-Rupert hydro-electric project.

Out of six Cree communities affected, four to five chiefs could be on board with the deal, according to reports.

Hydro wants to divert the Rupert River into the Eastmain River, where a 624-square-kilometre reservoir would be built.

About 90 per cent of the Rupert's flow would be cut off at the diversion point, while downriver, the river's flow would be cut by half at the river's mouth.

Hydro bosses flew up to four Cree communities in August and September to sell the idea that Crees invest their own money in the \$2.2-\$3 billion project, in exchange for a cut of the profits.

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come apparently wanted to hold a special general assembly of the Cree Nation early next year to discuss the unprecedented offer.

But that idea may not fly. The chiefs of the affected communities have signalled that they don't want to involve the Grand Council of the Crees in their deal, according to reports. And, depending on how fast the chiefs proceed, there may not be enough time to hold an assembly.

Since the Hydro visits, the communities haven't seen much consultation about the landmark partnership offer. Details at this point are still sketchy about the deal, and we haven't received any reports on what happened at the chiefs' meeting.

The grand chief and most of the chiefs we called weren't available for comment. We also

couldn't reach anyone at Hydro-Quebec.

The Grand Council apparently wanted to do an independent economic review of the deal, but this idea may have been shot down. It isn't known if the chiefs have commissioned an independent review of Hydro's offer by a qualified energy economist.

The Hydro offer would see Crees invest their own money in the project, but where would the money come from? The Board of Compensation? The James Bay Eeyou Board? It isn't known.

The deal would see power from the so-called "EM-1" project sold at a fixed price to Hydro-Quebec forever, according to reports, with the sales starting at 2.2 to 2.4 cents per kilowatt-hour. This price is well below the 4.5 cents Quebec consumers pay, or the 15-plus cents paid by the Americans at peak consumption periods.

Power from EM-1 can't be sold to any other buyer for a different price, according to our information about the offer.

Because of the low price, the profits are expected to be quite low, too. We couldn't get any precise figures, but the deal doesn't look like a gold mine by any means, from what we know. It may be worth less than \$200,000 a year to the Crees, in exchange for a \$20 million investment, for example.

Hydro-Quebec, on the other hand, stands to make lots of money on the project, because the Eastmain and Rupert waters will be flowing not only through the EM-1 turbines, but also at LG-2 and LG-1. Then Hydro can turn around and resell the EM-1 power for much more in Quebec or abroad. What is the project really worth to Hydro? This information also isn't available.

NO SUSPECT IN CHIBOUGAMAU HIT

Has the biker war hit James Bay? That's what police and many Crees are asking themselves after the death of Richard "Oiseau" Naud, 44, in a hail of gunfire the night of October 22 at his home in Chibougamau.

Naud was in his living room with some companions (it's not clear if they were family or friends) when he was gunned down by an assailant shooting through the window.

Naud was pronounced dead at 11:00 p.m. at Chibougamau Hospital.

Police have no suspects, but think the shooting may have been part of a "war for territory" by organized crime, according to Sûreté du Québec spokeswoman Hélène Napton.

She said Naud was at one time "known to police as a drug dealer," noting that he had been arrested before on drug charges.

However, Napton was careful to say police have no evidence Naud was still dealing at the time of the shooting. Police searched Naud's home after the incident, but didn't find anything suspicious.

A handgun was found outside the house, probably the shooter's, but Napton wouldn't give a description of the gun, or even the number of times Naud was shot, beyond saying "several."

SQ Sgt. Guy Ouellette, of the Wolverine anti-biker squad in Montreal, said police are still investigating what was behind the shooting. He said Naud wasn't a member of a motorcycle gang, but may have been hit for refusing to play along with one of the biker outfits.

"He (Naud) was warned by the Hell's Angels probably to play the game with them," Ouellette said. "I think his answer wasn't the one expected by the Hell's Angels or their representatives in the area. In my opinion, that case is definitely linked to the bikers."

Asked if the hitman would have been a Chibougamau resident or someone from the south, Ouellette said, "You have to ask yourself, Who can do the job? It could be a local, but normally it would be outsiders."

-BY ALEX ROSLIN

By Nation Staff

Where is their chief?

Letter to *The Nation*.

"Prayer to the Great Spirit for Change in Wemindji"

Oh! Where? Oh! Where is our Chief? Oh! Where has our Chief gone? Oh! Where can he be?

Oh! Great Spirit, How lost we feel without a committed Leader, who resides with us and helps us to work together for the well-being of our community.

Oh! Where? Oh! Where is our Chief? Oh! Where has our Chief gone? Oh! Where can he be?

Oh! Great Spirit! Grant us the guidance to help ourselves, our children and our future generation.

Oh! Where? Oh! Where is our Chief? Oh! Where has our Chief gone? Oh! Where can he be?

Oh! Great Spirit! Our Pride and Dignity are being smothered by ignorance of basic democracy, untrustworthiness, selfishness and many other unscrupulous ways.

Oh! Where? Oh! Where is our Chief? Oh! Where has our Chief gone? Oh! Where can

he be?

Oh! Great Spirit! Our community urgently needs a very Wise, Humble and Loyal Leader to give us new direction and changes that we desperately need for the sake of our community wellness survival.

Oh! Where? Oh! Where is our Chief? Oh! Where has our Chief gone? Oh! Where can he be?

Oh! Great Spirit! We are getting very frustrated and hurt to know that our Chief is deserting our community, our people, especially our youth who are being manipulated for promises which are always broken.

Oh! Where? Oh! Where is our Chief? Oh! Where has our Chief gone? Oh! Where can he be?

Oh! Great Spirit! Please answer our prayers for a new leadership to help rebuild our community, to make it strong and healthy again.

Oh! Where? Oh! Where is our Chief? Oh! Where has our Chief gone? Oh! Where can he be?

Oh! Great Spirit! Grant us Courage and Serenity to stand on solid ground so we can

fight together as a community for our rights and to voice ourselves openly.

Oh! Where? Oh! Where is our Chief? Oh! Where has our Chief gone? Oh! Where can he be?

Oh! Great Spirit! Grant us our prayers that Our Chief will understand and accept our pleas for new Community Leadership and step down peacefully.

Oh! Where? Oh! Where is our Chief? Oh! Where has our Chief gone? Oh! Where can he be?

**Concerned band members of Wemindji
(signed by 30 individuals)**

Hi... from overseas

Letter to *The Nation*.

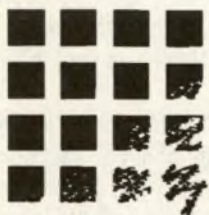
Hi,

I wondered if I could ask for a pen friend through your paper. Name is Jan Walsh, 52 Waterloo Road, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 1RF, England. Many thanks and best wishes to all the Cree Nation.

Jan

T. A. G .

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CTA CHIEF KNOCKS EM-1, FORESTRY RETREAT BUT TRAPPERS PLEASED ABOUT NEW FUNDING DEAL

Cree Trappers' Association president Edward Gilpin is a happy man. After years of funding troubles, which culminated in the layoff of its executive for two months last year, the CTA is close to inking a new funding deal that promises some stability.

The deal, negotiated with help from the Grand Council of the Crees, will be signed with the Feds and Quebec in coming weeks. It is worth about \$5.3 million over five years to the CTA, half of which was already promised in the Quebec MOU deal of last spring. The CTA has been waiting for the funds since the signing of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

But the good news comes mixed with bad. Many trappers are concerned about Hydro-Quebec's proposed Eastmain-Rupert hydro-electric project, and many don't like what's happening with the Cree forestry lawsuit, which was put on hold at a secretive chiefs' meeting on Sept. 15.

The CTA may not have to worry about any more layoffs, but Cree trappers are seeing new threats to their lands.

Edward Gilpin took the Cree leadership to task for not providing enough information to the communities about its decisions. In the case of the "EM-1" Eastmain-Rupert hydro project, he said the chiefs shouldn't sign any deal with Hydro-Quebec if they don't take it to the people first.

Chiefs met in Montreal last week to discuss a partnership deal with HQ on the \$2-billion-plus hydro project. There hasn't been much consultation with the communities, and some chiefs reportedly don't want the Grand

Council involved in the deal (see p. 5).

"In Eastmain, we appointed a task force to look at the partnership offer," said Gilpin. "I was supposed to be on it, but I haven't heard anything. We haven't had a meeting - not that I know of."

"Personally, I have a lot of questions. What does it entail? This is the future we're dealing with. It can't be just decided overnight by the chiefs. It should be the whole community."

Gilpin said he's "not ready to go into any partnership unless I know what it entails. If it's anything like the SDBJ, which we've tried to work with in the past, if that's the kind of partnership Hydro is proposing, I don't think it would work."

As for the forestry lawsuit, Gilpin said he finds the Cree retreat confusing. "You don't know exactly what deals were made to take these kinds of decisions. It seems to drop out of the air," he said.

"We have too many side deals. There's always another priority. I don't know if it's the priority of the trappers, community members, or the politicians. Me, I would have loved to see it (the lawsuit) go through."

So how does the CTA plan to spend its extra money? Almost \$4 million will go to regular operations, while \$740,000 is to go to the CTA's new offices in Eastmain and Mistissini. The rest will go to new programs, like the CTA insurance fund, which reimburses trappers for theft, fire damage and other losses at their cabins. Still to be negotiated: \$4.8 million to build a Cree fur tannery.

by Alex Roslin

Accident on Route du Nord

Four Crees from Mistissini were seriously injured in a single-vehicle accident on the Route du Nord on October 31.

The driver lost control of the vehicle at KM126, between the Troilus Mine and Nemaska. Trappers called for assistance in Nemaska after discovering the accident, and the local police was informed, which in turn called the Sûreté du Québec. It took some time for the SQ to get to the scene from Chibougamau.

All four people in the vehicle were seriously hurt. Two were taken to hospital by helicopter.

James Bay to become a mine!

When we hear "James Bay," the first things that come to mind are "immense hydro-electric resources," reports *La Presse* in its *Les Prospecteurs* mining column.

But one day, who knows, we will maybe be talking about "Baie James" as a... mine.

The column tells of the explorations of Virginia and other junior miners deployed in the North. Together with Exploration Boréale, Virginia has just made a new discovery at the "Poste Lemoyne," six kilometres north of the Route du Nord, which we are told links LG-3 and LG-4(?)

Le Poste Lemoyne is 70 km east of the "La Grande Sud" project, which is where Virginia is doing other explorations in something called zone 32, zone Brèche and zone Veine.

La Presse calls the finds made thus far "encouraging." Virginia and Boréale have decided to intensify their efforts in the area.

Val d'Or to host partnership forum

Val d'Or will be hosting a Partnership Forum on November 26 to "create an atmosphere that will allow the Natives and non-Natives to get to know each other better and to create lasting relationships to the benefit of both communities," according to a statement from organizers.

The forum, to be held at the Confortel Centre des congrès, is the result of a joint effort by the Val d'Or Native Friendship

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End game in Orillia

by Ian Adams

The Trudeau Papers

McClelland & Stewart (tel.: 416-598-1114)
Toronto, 1971, 108 pp.

The year is 1975, four years into the future. Two Soviet SS-9 nuclear missiles, each carrying a 50-megaton warhead, are accidentally launched from Russia in a strange CIA plot gone horribly wrong.

They sail over the Arctic carrying 6,000 times more destructive power than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. The U.S., in retaliation, launches a couple of its own nukes. And guess where they all come down? Yup, we're toast. By some freak accident, the nukes all hit Western Canada, and kill 2 million of us. Holy cow...

This book, written from the point of view of a CIA agent posing as a journalist in Canada, was the first novel of Ian Adams. Adams covered the Vietnam War for *Maclean's* magazine, and went on to write a series of books on Canada's bizarre connection to the spy world that have become cult classics.

One of them, *End Game in Paris*, is his fictional account of the unsolved 1971 murder of FLQ activist François Mario Bachand, which has had tongues wagging in Quebec ever since. Many have wondered about the role played by François Dorlot, husband of PQ Culture Minister Louise Beaudoin and an associate of Bachand, in the events leading up to the murder. Suffice it to say, *End Game in Paris* raises a lot of questions about this mystery.

In *The Trudeau Papers*, post-Armageddon Canada quickly descends into chaos, the FBI whacks PM Pierre Trudeau, and thousands of Marines invade to "maintain order" and take over the natural resources. That doesn't go over well among us proud Canucks. Soon, a Vietnam-like guerrilla war erupts, if you can imagine that, in the back woods of Northern Ontario. Dissidents are shot in Toronto's Varsity Stadium. No word on the fate of the James Bay project, but Quebec does end up separating. Don't tell the PQ, though. We don't want them getting any crazy ideas in case they're desperate, do we?

BY ALEX ROSLIN

Come on Doctor. Move with me. Feeeel the rhythm...And a one...a two...a one...a two...Dittip.

The things I'll do for votes...

crackshots!

continued from page 7

Centre, the city of Val d'Or and the local chamber of commerce.

Two hundred participants are expected. Workshops will be held in the morning, followed by a conference lunch, an afternoon panel and an evening banquet.

Cost: \$75 per person. For information please call Barbara Poirier or Melisa Pash at the friendship centre: (819) 825-6857.

Kuczer charged

Peter Kuczer, a Montreal businessman who owned the hydro-electric dam in the Algonquin community of Winneway, is among four people charged with 124 counts of bankruptcy fraud.

The bulk of the fraud charges relate to about 30 cheques worth \$2.35 million that were withdrawn during a five-month period from his company, Hydro P-1, before it went belly-up in March 1995. The withdrawals weren't reported to the bankruptcy court.

In 1994, Kuczer was arrested in Miami outside a bank on charges he attempted to launder \$1 million in drug money. In a plea bargain, he pled guilty to a tax charge.

Mohawks duty exempt

The Mohawks of Akwesasne have a right to cross the Canada-U.S. border without paying duties, the Federal Court of Appeal confirmed this month.

The federal government had appealed a lower court ruling that Mohawks have the constitutional right to move purchased

goods over the border without paying duty.

"We anticipate Canada will appeal to the Supreme Court," said Akwesasne Grand Chief Mike Mitchell in a statement.

"However, it has been our experience that with each level of the court process in Canada our case gets stronger."

About 7,500 people live in Akwesasne, which is split in half by the Canada-U.S. border. Mitchell represents the Canadian side. The case started in March 1988, when Mitchell loaded a truck with personal goods and crossed into Canada from the U.S. He refused to pay \$361.64 in duties and was charged under the Customs Act.

Native art auction welcomes all

The Odawa Native Friendship Centre and Aboriginal Art Leasing have announced the Third Annual Aboriginal Art Auction, to be held December 5.

All proceeds from this "exciting dinner/auction" (so says a press release) are to help support Odawa. For 22 years, it's provided services for the 30,000 Aboriginal people in the Ottawa region. It's an opportunity for Native and Inuit artists to show off their stuff. Odawa needs sponsors, so give 'em a call. Info: (613) 722-3811.

Correction

Due to an editing error in the last issue, we mistakenly referred to MP Guy St. Julien as Guy St. Pierre in a news story. We apologize for the mistake.

Skal Ball

Crees rock the joint

They said it couldn't be done. There just wasn't enough time. The naysayers were busy saying their nays and everyone involved was understandably nervous.

The James Bay Cree Nation had been invited by SKAL, an international tourism body, to open its week-long conference at the Palais de Congrès in Montreal.

We proudly present to you some of the crappy photos that photographer Neil Diamond managed to capture after a weekend of hell, working long hours overtime and getting paid peanuts and fine booze at the "War Room," 25 floors up in the Sheraton Centre in downtown Montreal. Enjoy the sights, the sounds, the "razzamatazz."



The Eastmain dance troupe, **Atskoo Dancers** (at right), drew wild cheers, with their Cree twist of the Scottish Jig.



Cree recording artist **Robert Bobbish** performed some heavy Cree metal to an astonished older crowd.



One of the many photos exhausted Cree photographer **Neil Diamond** managed to screw up. Send him money care of *The Nation*. He needs a long vacation.



GC, **MCC**, LLD, of the GCC/EE/EI/II (Q)/CRA, extending a Cree welcome to the proceedings.



President of Beesum Communications, Vice President of the JBCCS, publisher of *The Nation*, Journalist, Website Designer, Photographer, Snowmobile enthusiast, Cree UFOlogist, husband, Father, Actor, Dancer, Columnist and just maybe the best dressed Cree in the world, **Ernest Webb**, kept the show moving steadily as Mawstah of Ceremonies.



President of SKAL with the funny sounding Scandinavian name accepted a tamarack goose from GCLLD MCC of the GCC/EI/II/IE(Q)/CRA.



Waskaganish chanteuse **Francine Weistche** opened the show with the Robert Bobbish band. She closed the show with an *capella* Cree version of Amazing Grace and everyone in the audience thought it was a genuine Cree hymn. Ha!



Show coordinator **George L. Diamond** masterminds the show from backstage as MC **Ernest Webb** and last-minute assistant to the assistant **Reggie Tomatuk** listen intently.



Pow Wow dancers wow the international crowd. Note all the bald heads in the audience.



**MOORE STEPHENS
HYDE HOUGHTON**

On behalf of the partners and employees of Moore Stephens Hyde Houghton, we congratulate Mr. Matthew Coon-Come on his recent honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Trent University.

An important and well deserved honor.

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or 1-800-319-4933



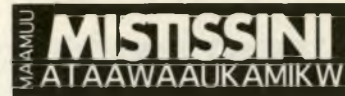
On behalf of all members of the Cree Nation of Nemaska, the Chief and Council would like to congratulate the Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come on his recent Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Trent University (Ontario).

Your leadership and vision have allowed the Crees of James Bay to achieve national and international stature with both dignity and ethics.

We sincerely thank you for your hard work and sacrifice on our behalf.

Congratulations.

**Chief George Wapachee and Council
Cree First Nation of Nemaska**



**True Value Hardware V&S
Department Store
155 Hudson Street
Mistissini
(418) 923-3898**

The staff of the Maamuu Mistissini Ataawaukamikw wishes to ***congratulate*** Grand Chief Matthew Coon-Come on his recent receipt of an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Trent University.

It is a well deserved honour and we wish you the best.

MEMO

MEMO

To: all students and teachers

From: The Cree School Board/ *The Nation*

Subject: The 5th Annual Student Essay Contest

This memo is to remind you to start writing your essays. Deadline: Dec. 7, 1998. Choose your own topic. You know the drill. You must be in a CSB program. Age not a factor. You may enter your essay in Cree, English or French.

Fax: 514 278 9914

Email: beesum@beesum-communications.com

Mail: c/o The Student Essay Contest

5678 Parc Ave., P.O. Box 48036, Montreal, Qc.
H2V 4S8

\$2000 in prizes!!!

Profile

Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come



A young future GC Dr. MCC (guess which one he is, answer: p. 17).

BY WILLIAM NICHOLLS

The Crees of James Bay have been led by one of the most charismatic Native leaders, Matthew Coon Come, for the past 10 years. On October 8, Matthew was honoured with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by his alma mater, Trent University of Peterborough, Ont. The occasion called out for us to step back and take a look at some of Matthew's accomplishments.

Starting in 1987, Matthew became the third Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees, the governing arm of the nine Cree communities that comprise the Cree Nation. The two former Grand Chiefs were Billy Diamond and Ted Moses.

With the support of his people and staff, Matthew succeeded against all odds in bringing his people's quest for survival and respect for their environmental and human rights to Canadian and international prominence. This was the classic struggle of the underdog against overwhelming odds. It was the Crees against the might of mega-utility Hydro-Quebec and the Quebec government.

The struggle of the James Bay Crees has and continues to inspire North American and European environmental movements and other indigenous peoples. What the Crees won with the help of Matthew's leadership showed the world the little guy did count and still does.

In almost Abraham Lincoln-like beginnings (born in a remote log cabin), Matthew was born in the bush, near the community of Mistissini on his father's trapline 41 years ago. He, however, did

not experience the "emancipation" policies so beloved by Lincoln.

Like many Aboriginal people of his generation in Canada, he was taken by his family and community to residential school in the south, as part of the "Indian policy" of the day that aimed at assimilation of Native peoples and the destruction of their cultures and languages.

Despite this "exile" at a harsh age, Matthew completed elementary and high school, going on to Trent and McGill universities, where he took Native Studies, Political Science, Economics and also some Law.

Matthew then returned to his people in the North. There, he continued his education, this time to continue learning the Cree way of life with his father and grandfather acting as his newest "professors." After two years living as a Cree with the land, he was acknowledged as "graduated" - *summa cum laude* - as a Cree hunter. A proud moment for any Cree, but Matthew knew that in order for this life to continue he would have to serve the Cree people politically.

Matthew entered politics, becoming Chief of the Mistissini Crees from 1981 to 1986. The Crees at that time were pioneers in local and self-government in Canada and Matthew was a part of that. He was the inland coordinator in the development of the Cree-Naskapi Act, the first federal legislation on local Aboriginal government in Canada.

Today, Matthew is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Grand Council of the Cree Regional Authority. He serves as a director on various Cree entities and working groups, including Air Creebec, CreeCo., the Cree Construction Company, James Bay Eeyou Corporation, James Bay Cultural Education Centre, Cree Health Board and the Cree Educational Authority.

Matthew was instrumental in having a Cree referendum during Quebec's secession question. "To forcefully take us out of one country into another would be the hijacking of a whole people and our lands," he said. "This we will not allow the separatists to do."

In addition to these domestic duties, Matthew has represented the Crees at the provincial and federal levels, including constitutional negotiations regarding the rights of Aboriginal peoples in Canada. His work in the international arena includes the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and various international tribunals. Matthew represented the Crees at the United Nations on the draft declaration of the rights of indigenous peoples.

In 1993, Matthew was awarded the Equinox Environmental Prize. He was a recipient of the Goldman Global Environmental Prize, awarded by the Goldman Foundation in San Francisco in respect of his leadership of our people in defense of Cree lands and waters against destructive hydro-electric mega-projects.

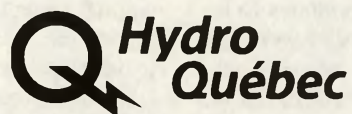
"Coon Come has marshaled a strong, local, national and international coalition to oppose James Bay II," stated the Goldman Foundation. More recently he was awarded the National Aboriginal Achievement Award for his work on environmental issues.

In addition to those duties as Grand Chief of his people, Matthew, his wife Mary Ann and their five children continue to spend time each year hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering on the Coon Come trapline on Cree traditional lands.

continued on page 15

Mr. André Caillé,
President of Hydro-Québec,
extends his cordial congratulations to
Mr. Matthew Coon-Come
on the occasion of being awarded the
Honorary Doctoral Degree from the
University of Trent.

M. André Caillé,
président d'Hydro-Québec,
adresse ses plus sincères félicitations
à M. Matthew Coon-Come,
récipiendaire d'un doctorat
honoris causa de l'Université Trent.



"It is a very great honour..."

PROFILE, cont'd...

Below is the speech that Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come made at Trent upon being awarded his honorary Doctor of Laws degree on October 2.

"It is a very great honour for me to stand before you today on this occasion.

I am humbled by the knowledge that I follow today in the paths of some very eminent human beings who were granted an honorary degree at this university. I shall just name a few, who on the basis of their contributions to society have come to this great university and been honoured this way: Gary Potts, Ernest Benedict, Douglas Cardinal, Rosemarie Kuptana, Andrei Sakharov and Nelson Mandela.

These people have devoted their energies to Aboriginal, environmental or human rights. I am proud as a Cree and as a Trent Alumnus to have my name added to this list.

I am a servant of my people, the James Bay Crees of subarctic Quebec, Ontario and NWT. It was my people, Eenouch, the James Bay Crees, who elected me to the position of Grand Chief of our Nation. It is they who, through their courage, wisdom, determination, forbearance and hope, have earned this degree.

I therefore accept this honour in the name of my people, Eenouch, the James Bay Crees.

Today I am receiving an honorary Doctor of Laws. There is a certain irony in this, because it is laws – including the constitution – that were the instruments that have been used, and are still being used, to dispossess and oppress our people.

I would like to recall a key moment in my life. I was 17 years of age, living as a student in the south far away from my family and community in James Bay. One day I read in a paper that Hydro-Quebec was going to build the hydro-electric project of the century. I looked at a small map in the paper and saw that our traditional lands at Mistissini were to be flooded for this mad idea.

It has taken me some time to identify and understand the phenomenon that was at work.

This was a development that was highly destructive of the environment, the animals and the Cree way of life. This was an undertaking that fostered waste and inefficiency. But I have also come to understand that the James Bay hydro-electric project was about the taking of our lands. Fundamentally, this project was about the wholesale dispossession of my people, the James Bay Crees.

At the time of this dispossession, it was stated to our people that in law we were squatters on our traditional lands. The Quebec Court of Appeal actually declared our Aboriginal rights to our land been extinguished in 1679, when King Charles II granted

our lands to his cousin Prince Rupert and the Hudson's Bay Company of Gentleman Explorers. King Charles did not ask us, tell us, or even know we existed!

After the fact of these court cases and dams, our leaders negotiated an agreement, the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, in an attempt to obtain some recognition of our rights to ensure that our people might survive. We entered into this agreement in 1975.

Survive we have, in spite of duress, and in spite of the continuing dispossession through deforestation, mineral development, and further proposed hydro-electric development. Through our own efforts, we have even begun to make a success of the many aspects of our lives, economies and communities in the face of these invasive realities.

And yet now the Crown, in right of Canada and Quebec, twists the legal meaning of the Agreement we signed to state that our Aboriginal rights in and to our lands have been "extinguished." Importantly, this is what the government of Quebec says in response to our statement that in the event of Quebec separation from Canada, we will have the right to choose to remain with our traditional lands in Canada.

And at the same time, we have learned that the other terms of our Agreement with the Crown, the provisions that were to have provided for the training, employment, development and infrastructure in our communities, and the preservation of our traditional way of life in the face of hydro-projects, were empty promises.

In 1982, an extraordinary provision, section 35, was inserted into the Constitution of Canada, the highest law of the land. It stated that the existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of the Aboriginal peoples in Canada were now constitutionally recognized and affirmed.

This was certainly an important development in the legal history of Aboriginal and treaty rights in Canada. As of that day, the rights of Aboriginal peoples that arose from treaties with the Crown could not simply be taken away at the pleasure of the Crown. Likewise, existing Aboriginal rights were now constitutionally affirmed.

I would like to examine the use of the word "existing" in section 35.

Imagine for a moment if the word "existing" had been used in the context of gender equality rights in the same constitution. In earlier decades, women and people of colour were declared by the courts and governments not to have equal rights. By various laws, court judgements, policies and practices, women were stripped of their fundamental rights.

Imagine if the word "existing" had been used in the context of gender equality rights in the same way that it was used in the context of provisions concerning Aboriginal and treaty rights. It would have meant that only those gender and other equality rights that still existed in 1982 were constitutionally recognized and affirmed.

This is an amazing and discriminatory approach to fundamen-

continued on page 17





MUNICIPALITE DE LA

Baie James

Localité de Radisson

The citizens of Radisson and the local council members would like to extend their sincere congratulations to Mr. Matthew Coon Come, Grand Chief of the Crees of Quebec, on receiving an honorary doctorate from Trent University. May your leadership and achievements be an inspiration to all northern youth.

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Canada
K1A 0A6

Tel.: (613) 992-3030 • Fax: (613) 996-0828
stjulg@parl.gc.ca

Guy-St-Julien, MP for Abitibi-James Bay-Nunavik, would like to extend his heartiest congratulations to the Grand Chief of the Quebec Cree, Matthew Coon Come, on his being honoured by Trent University in Ontario with its most prestigious award, an honorary Doctorate of Laws.

Guy St.-Julien, M.P.

ABITIBI - BAIE JAMES - NUNAVIK

BYERS CASGRAIN

LAWYERS AND BUSINESS ADVISORS

***Byers Casgrain offers sincere congratulations to
Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come
on his being awarded an
honorary doctorate by Trent University
in recognition of his outstanding service
to the Crees of Eeyou Istchee.***

***A Member of* McMILLAN BULL CASGRAIN**

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continued from page 15

tal rights; only those rights that have not been extinguished are recognized and affirmed. The others, like our rights that King Charles is said to have extinguished in 1670, are gone forever. It seems that just like at Animal Farm, some rights in Turtle Island are more equal than others.

It seems to me that this word "existing" was inserted into the provision concerning our Aboriginal and treaty rights to prevent it from having any broad remedial effect in Canada. It was inserted to ensure that the unlawful takings and dispossession that had taken place up to 1982 could not be overturned on the basis of s. 35. I should point out that Mary Simon was the Aboriginal leader who fought bravely against the use of the word "existing" in s. 35 in 1982.

I recently traveled for two weeks to Thailand, as part of a delegation from the Canadian Council on International Cooperation. There are two classes of people in that country. One of these classes is wealthy. The other is dependent on government and international aid to meet its most basic human needs. This was sadly

familiar to me from my travels to so-called Indian Reserves across this country. It is common knowledge that our people across this wealthy land are still suffering in conditions of mass poverty, unemployment, dependence and third-world-style underdevelopment.

There is not some complex social dynamic that causes this mass poverty and social ill health, whether in Thailand or Canada. Simply put, the situation for our people is the result of dispossession that continues to this day. Dependent peoples, whether in Thailand or in Canada, are those peoples who are excluded from any meaningful involvement or participation as peoples in the resources in their traditional lands. It is as simple as that.

However, it is a system of laws that will provide a basis for overcoming this dependence and oppression.

International human-rights law is binding on all governments. This system of law provides that all peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of this most fundamental human right, it is declared that a people may dispose freely — and thus of course retains, if this is its choice — its resources. And yet in Canada and Thai-

land, dependent and dispossessed peoples are essentially prevented from obtaining any direct benefit from the resources extracted from their lands.

By virtue of this right of self-determination, it is declared that under no circumstances shall a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence. And yet in Canada and Thailand, dependent peoples continue to suffer the devastating effects of such ongoing deprivation. In Canada, this is a result of legal doctrines such as "extinguishment" and "existing."

Andrei Sakharov and Nelson Mandela refused, along with their respective peoples, to accept the operation of unjust laws that oppressed and dispossessed them. They refused to accept legal systems that were in breach of their fundamental human rights.

Our Aboriginal and treaty rights are our fundamental human rights. We know what they are and will continue to assert them in every legitimate corner. And we know that the Trent University community recognizes and supports this cause.

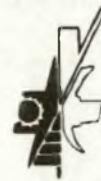
Many thanks – on behalf of my people – for this very great honour."

* MATTHEW IS IN THE BACK ROW, 2ND FROM LEFT



The Council of Commissioners and the staff of the Cree School Board wish to *congratulate* Grand Chief Matthew Coon-Come on his recent receipt of an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Trent University.

*Congratulations
and all the best to you Matthew.*



Ville de Val d'Or

The mayor and counsellors of the city of Val d'Or along with all the citizens *congratulate* Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come, recent recipient of an honorary Doctor of Laws degree bestowed upon him by Trent University in Ontario.

We hope this great honor will
inspire all Cree youth.

[illegible]

Update on Issues



Mistissini Police Boat at the beach near Mistissini

POLICE AGREEMENT FOR APRIL 1, 1998, TO MARCH 31, 2003

An Agreement to fund the Cree Community Police and for coordination by the Cree Regional Authority has been signed by the Grand Chief and Deputy Grand Chief. Once Quebec and Canada sign, the Agreement will ensure police services in all Cree communities. The parties recognize in the Agreement the need for mutual assistance and cooperation among law enforcement agencies.

The Agreement also provides for the following:

-Police Organization:

- Cree Nation funded by Canada 52% and Quebec 48%
- Communities to hire, manage and supervise local forces
- Cree Public Security Commission may determine aims, priorities and quality of service

-Operations Funding

- For 1998-99 is established at \$5,687,000.
- Minimum of 47 constables
- CRA responsible for police Court liaison services
- Unused allocations carried over for next year

-Upgrading, Training and Improvement

- Upgrading for constables
- Training for new constables
- Constables eligible for the Institut de Police du Québec

-Access to Special Services

Quebec and Canada to provide special services such as forensic expertise, assistance in resolving major crimes, prevention programs, search and rescue assistance, recovery of corpses, coroner services, police helicopter, incarceration facilities for suspects, etc., and access to police data banks.

-Infrastructure Funding

Funding of \$6,300,000 for new police facilities in Waswanipi, Nemaska, Waskaganish, Eastmain, Wemindji, Chisasibi and Whapmagoostui and for upgrading facilities in Mistissini and Ouje-Bougoumou.

INCREASED RECOGNITION OF JURISDICTION AND STATUS

- Cree police to have same status as regular police officers
- Jurisdiction:

-category I lands, in Ouje-Bougoumou, on adjacent water bodies in Quebec

-the following roads and highways and adjacent lands:

Waswanipi: Highway 113 for a distance of 5 kilometres each side of the Waswanipi access road.

Nemaska: access road to the Route du Nord and the Route du Nord right to the Matagami-Radisson road

Ouje-Bougoumou: on the access road to Highway 113

Waskaganish, Eastmain, Wemindji: access roads to the Matagami-Radisson road

Chisasibi: the access roads from James Bay to the Matagami-Radisson road excluding both the LG-1 site and the access road to the LG-1 site. The road on the north shore of the La Grande River from the North shore access road to the LG-1 site westward to James Bay

Mistissini: the access road to Highway 167 and on 167, one kilometre North and South



GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES (EYYOU ASTCHEE)
GRAND CONSEIL DES CRIS (EYYOU ASTCHEE)

GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES
(EYYOU ASTCHEE)



ADMINISTRATION REGIONALE CREE
CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY

CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY

The boys of summer

BY XAVIER KATAQUAPIT

In the summer of 1917 life changed forever for 24 young Cree men from along the James Bay coast near Attawapiskat. As was our tradition during the summer



my people would gather at a place on the James Bay coast on the banks of the Attawapiskat River where Attawapiskat sits today. The story as handed down by my grandmother Louise Paulmartin, her daughter Susan Kataquapit, who is my mom, and by my dad, Marius Kataquapit, starts with the appearance of an army recruitment officer.

They tell me that this representative of the government came to the summer gathering place and signed up 24 of our young men, ranging in age from their late teens to mid-20s. Apparently no one understood what these men had agreed to or where they would be going. It was believed by most that they were heading south for a while to help the government out in some way. It was later discovered that a limit of five young men were to be recruited for the First World War from each settlement along the James Bay coast but for some reason 24 were pulled out of the Attawapiskat area. I am also told that the local priest in the area was not present when the recruiter came to take the young men away and when he returned he was very upset at what had transpired. Imagine the impact on families and the community of Attawapiskat as 24 of the most healthy, strong and vibrant young men were uprooted and taken away.

Both of my grandfathers, John Chookomolin and James Kataquapit, were part of the group that left with the recruiter by canoe that summer. They headed out into the bay in eight wooden canoes, made their way to the Albany River to the south and along the Kenogami River, then on to the Little Current River to a place called Pagwa near Nakina. These young men had little in terms of supplies and the two-week trip was hard on them. From Nakina they boarded the train, left the land of the Mushkegowuk and headed south, and then to the east coast.

They joined thousands of young men on a convoy of three ships that departed Halifax for England. Now you have to remember, none of these young Crees spoke any English; they had no idea where they were going or what was expected of them. If I close my eyes I can see them in their uniforms and with their faces etched in anguish as the shores of Canada slipped away and the great ocean opened up before them like an infinity. Once they made it to England they were

more or less on their own and were split off in some cases and headed into different directions.

Of all the men who left that sad summer of 1917 some did not make it back and those who did were changed forever. John Chookomolin, my great-grandfather on my mom's side, was never heard from again. There was no telegram, no letter, nothing; he just never came home. My grandmother finally found out through some research by my cousin George Hookimaw in 1990 that John Chookomolin had been stricken with pneumonia during the crossing of the Atlantic. He managed to survive the trip and passed some time in the hospital in England until his untimely death, separated from family and friends in a foreign land. His body lies in England to this day.

My dad's father, James Kataquapit, made it back two and a half years later to the surprise and thankfulness of his family. He talked of frightening nights in war-torn places and of strange and wonderful sights. He recalled that at the end of the war those young Cree men who had managed to survive and return were simply dropped off at the rail stop at Nakina and told to go home. Some actually walked the banks of the river retracing their two-week canoe trip all the way back to Fort Albany, where they were taken back to Attawapiskat.

Luckily, few of these young Crees actually saw combat as the war was in its final stage by the time they arrived on the scene. Still, some of them did not return and in most cases their lives after leaving Attawapiskat in the summer of 1917 remain a great mystery.

I am still researching this story and I hope it will grow to give us a window on the lives of these men during this tumultuous time. It is with great respect and a sadness that I honour the following Attawapiskat Cree men who left that summer day: Joachim Spence, Jacob Edwards, John Chookomolin, Peter Chakasum, Peter Swanson, Jacob Swanson, Ruby Linklater, John Chakasum, Patrick Kataquapit, William Kataquapit, George Kioke, Nora Chakasum, Michel Nipin, John Kiash, James Kiash, Solomon Sutherland, Thomas Sutherland, Jams Poni, John Nakogee, James Kataquapit, David Okitigo, Thomas Noah, Charles Tomagatick and Jake Carpenter.

As far as I know right now four men did not make it back, including: John Chookomolin, Jacob Swanson, Nora Chakasum and Michel Nipin, but I am not sure. I thank Father Vezina of Attawapiskat for providing me with these names. Perhaps it would be a good idea to have a plaque made up in honour of all these men and place it in the new Reg Louttit Sportsplex in Attawapiskat. Their story lives on.

Partnership Forum in Val d'Or



"To the beat of the same drum"

To create a better understanding between Natives and Non-Natives.

**Hotel Confortel
Congress Center of Val d'Or
Thursday, November 26th, 1998
at 8 :30 a.m.**

Workshops on :
Natural Resources, Education, Economic Development,
and Health and Social Services

For Natives and non-Natives of Abitibi-Témiscamingue and James Bay regions. The Forum will be followed by a cocktail, a banquet and cultural entertainment. The program includes merit awards to entities from Native and non-Native communities with outstanding success partnership stories.

The following businesses are offering special rates :

Organization :	Regular Rate :	Special Forum Rate :
Motel L'Escale - Hotel Suites :	\$72.50/room	\$65.00/room
(Free Shuttle Service)		
	\$105.50/suite	\$85.00/suite
Hotel Motel Continental :	\$63.00/room	\$60.00/room
Confortel-Congress Centre :	\$71.95/room	\$65.00/room
Air Creebec :	10% discount on airline tickets	

To register or for more information, call Melisa Pash at the Val d'or Native Friendship Centre at (819)825-6857.



Principal Sponsor :
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Canada Economic Development



Cost : \$75.00
(including forum
and banquet)

Free long-distance now

If Telebec has its way, your phone bill will soon shoot up from \$22.50 per month in 1997 to \$36.90 in 2001. Telebec, a phone company owned by Bell Canada, has applied for the rate increase in the Cree communities and other "high-cost" areas across the country.

A decision is expected next spring from the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission.

Crees in Chisasibi have gotten together with Native and non-Native groups in Canada to spearhead a grassroots campaign against the rate hike.

One of the main Cree concerns is that Telebec gives free long-distance to Hydro-Quebec across James Bay, which means Crees are being asked to subsidize Hydro's free phone use.

Instead, the Chisasibi representatives suggest Crees should get free long-distance within James Bay, too. Also, they say, Telebec should hire more Crees as employees and give Cree communities better service. Right now, there is a serious problem in both areas, the Crees say.

They calculate that the \$14.40-per-month rate increase will cost Chisasibi alone over \$100,000 a year more. For all the Cree communities in Quebec, the total increase will top \$400,000 a year.

The Chisasibi people say they need support from other Crees to make their campaign more effective. Below, two of the people involved make their case. -Ed.



inter-connection; for Cree communities, Telebec has kept any competing long-distance companies away with expensive service charges for inter-connection;

● Telebec does not offer jobs for Cree technicians and service representatives who speak Cree; Telebec does not offer contracts for Cree construction crews.

AT THE HEARING, Telebec not only asked to be granted its original request for rate increases, but also that all Canadians contribute to a new telecommunications tax that will subsidize it - an even greater increase. Ultimately, Telebec would like to receive between \$53 and \$120 per month for every telephone line, if the local rate and subsidy are added.

The Cree Nation of Chisasibi/Chisasibi Telecommunications Association suggested that any subsidy should be used to keep rates affordable. Also, the subsidy should be managed for the benefit of rural telephone users by a committee of consumers, small communities including First Nations, public-interest bodies and regional telephone companies. Furthermore, all telecommunications services, both telephone and Internet, should be eligible for subsidies.

Our presentation addressed the interests of all Cree communities and entities. At the June 1998 hearing, we reflected the difficulties experienced by the hospital in Chisasibi (which serves all communities), the schools, the businesses and contractors who rely on long-distance to reach suppliers and clients. Other proposals that were suggested dealt with keeping phone rates at the same levels as those in urban areas, improving the quality of phone service, having local crews provide rapid repair and installation, and serving customers in the Cree language.

At the final CRTC hearing in Ottawa to be held on January 25, 1999, we will propose a fair way of equalizing the service offered to Cree and non-Native communities. Our proposal is to allow direct dialing between all of the Cree

BY RAYMOND MENARICK and JIMMY NEACAPPO

In 1997, Telebec and other Canadian telephone companies asked the Canadian Radio-Television & Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) for higher phone rates. For Telebec, the increase would be \$14.40 per month more for home telephones before the year 2002. In response, there were objections from consumers and public organizations, such as the Council of the Cree Nation of Chisasibi and the Chisasibi Telecommunications Association. The CRTC postponed a decision on any increases after 1999 pending a hearing on costs, competition and service in "High-Cost Areas."

We addressed a CRTC hearing in Val d'Or in June 1998. We expressed concerns about rates and unfair employment practices, including:

● Cree communities are charged the same monthly rates as non-Native settlements such as Radisson and Hydro work camps, but Cree communities receive inferior telephone services.

● Telebec provides Hydro-Quebec with local numbers to call into the internal Hydro-Quebec phone system and get free long-distance calls across Quebec, and this service has been widely used by its employees, contractors and others without any Telebec charges for

continued on page 23



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Support needed for fight against rate hike...

cont'd from page 21

communities (similar to the toll-free service between Radisson, LG-2, LG-1, LG-3 and Hydro's Nemiskau power station). The benefits would include:

- reduction in hospital communications costs by about \$150,000 a year (better spent on health services),
- reduction in costs for Councils and the Grand Council of the Crees for inter-community telecommunications,
- greater access to Internet services,
- increased opportunities for communication between individuals and families in the communities, etc.

Up to now, our presentation has been relatively effective. But it would be stronger if we have the support of the communities, Grand Council, the Cree entities and other national organizations. We have discussed these issues with other groups across Canada that spoke at these CRTC hearings on "Services to High-Cost Areas," groups that oppose telephone company rate increases in their areas. Some of them are: the Consumers Association of Canada, B.C. Anti-Poverty Association, Wawatay Communications Society of Northern Ontario, Public Interest Advocacy Centre, Manitoba Society of Seniors

Inc., Federation nationale des associations des consommateurs du Québec, Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc., and Tatlayoko Think Tank (B.C.)

Together we have drawn up a statement for the protection of the rights of telecommunications customers in rural areas called the Consumer Charter for a Connected Canada. In it, we call for:

- rural and urban telephone rates to be similar and affordable,
- a national subsidy for rural customers to use to offset future increases,
- the consumers' rights to affordable, high-quality telecommunications services.

This statement is being circulated across Canada. We ask you to join us in endorsing these goals and in supporting our proposals to the CRTC and to Telebec. We look forward to your encouragement.

Raymond Menarick is a representative of the Chisasibi Telecommunications Association and Jimmy Neacappo is a representative of the Cree Nation of Chisasibi.

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Long march for the Kollas

An ancient people descended from the Incas fights to save its land and way of life.

BY ANKE SCHWITTAY

The Kollas are a group of indigenous peoples living in the valleys, foothills and high planes of the Andes Mountains of north-western Argentina. With more than 130,000 members, they are the largest aboriginal nation in Argentina, where 350,000 indigenous people make up 1 per cent of the total population. The Kollas are descendants of the Incas, Aymara and other local indigenous peoples, and their territory formerly made up the southern-most part of Tawantinsuyu, the Inca empire.

About 350 Kolla families live in the Finca San Andres (*finca* is Spanish for ranch or farm), whose 129,000 hectares are criss-crossed by several rivers and range from a hot and humid rainforest near sea level to high-altitude passes at 4,500 metres. Here they grow corn and potatoes, and keep herds of cattle and sheep.

Most Kollas are Catholics and also honour the *Pachamama*, the Mother Earth which was the principle Incan deity. But the land and way of life that have sustained the Kollas since time immemorial are under attack. Since their first encounter with Spanish invaders in 1535, they haven't had much rest from the outsiders

who wanted to enslave them, exploit their labour, take their land and push them aside.

An international business consortium has just bulldozed a path through their forests, over their rivers and mountains, to make way for a controversial natural-gas pipeline. Their fragile land is also threatened by tourism operators. But each step of the way, the Kollas have resisted, and they continue to resist.

Like their forefathers, many Kolla families still practice a semi-nomadic

lifestyle. In the spring, when the heat, poisonous snakes and insects drive the cattle up to higher altitudes, they follow their animals from lower-lying winter villages to higher-up summer settlements. In April and May (the seasons are opposite to ours because they are located south of the equator), when cold winds blow across the few remaining pastures, they come down again,



Kolla woman during protest march to Buenos Aires, Argentina's capital.

in long tracks of up to 10 horses loaded with household items, the summer harvest and chicken.

The houses have no electricity or running water, although after a devastating cholera epidemic in 1992, the provincial government promised to install drinking water and might be making good on this promise in the near future.

There are four communities in the finca: Angosto de Parani, Rio Blanquito de Santa Cruz, Los Naranjos and San Andres, ranging from 200 to 450 inhabitants. Each village has a primary school which all children attend until Grade 7. Once finished, many youngsters leave to go to secondary school, and quite a few don't return. They usually go to the nearby town of Oran, located about 70 kilometres to the east along an earth road that turns into slippery mud whenever it rains.

During the summer, when heavy rains make the rivers swell, the upper part of the finca is cut off from Oran for several months. Although a basic self-sufficiency in terms of food still prevails, the incorporation of rice and pasta into the daily diet and the dependency on other cash items have created a need for money that can only be earned outside the *finca*. For this purpose some men work in the petroleum industry in the south of the country, while their families remain in the *finca*. Others, sometimes together with their families, migrate seasonally to harvest tobacco, wine, onions, and still others move to urban centres. As a result,



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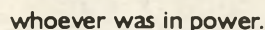
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Kolla women make blankets and other items on *telares* (looms).

over the years there has been a slow but constant decline in the number of inhabitants. Developing income-generating projects is therefore one of the priorities of the communities, in order to offer members alternatives to leaving.

THE KOLLAS' MEMORY of their presence in the region goes back many centuries, and within the finca archaeological remains like stone walls bear witness to this presence. The Kollas say these are remains of their resistance against Spanish conquerors, who entered the region for the first time in 1535 and were finally defeated in 1822 in the Argentinian war of independence. For their participation in the war the Kollas were promised ownership of their land, just one in a long series of broken promises made by

In fact, the finca and its inhabitants were sold in 1936 at a public auction to Robustiano Patron Costas, a powerful national and provincial politician who owned the large sugar factory of San Martin del Tabacal. He forced the Kollas to work for six months each year in the sugar cane harvest to pay the rent for their land. Many men remember the hard work from sunrise to sunset under the overseer's whip, which some started as young as 12 years old.

In 1946, General Juan Peron became president of Argentina, and only months later 179 Kollas from the provinces of Salta and Jujuy, encouraged by his populist politics, marched the more-than-1,300 kilometres to Buenos Aires to petition him for the return of their land. Many of the participants in what became known as the Malon de la Paz (Raid of Peace) walked, others went by mule or horse, and it took them over three months to reach the national capital where they were warmly welcomed by Peron on August 3, 1946. Members of the march who are still alive remember the emotional encounter, during which, they recount, Peron acknowledged their rightful ownership of the land and promised to set in motion the process of expropriation.

However, a few weeks later, on August 28, at about 2 a.m., police entered the hotel where the Kollas were staying with orders to remove them. The Kollas, not willing to return home without obtaining what they had come for, resisted, but in the end were dragged into a train that had already been prepared and, together with their animals, brought back "like sheep," as one participant describes it, to their natal provinces. Despite this vio-

continued on page 29

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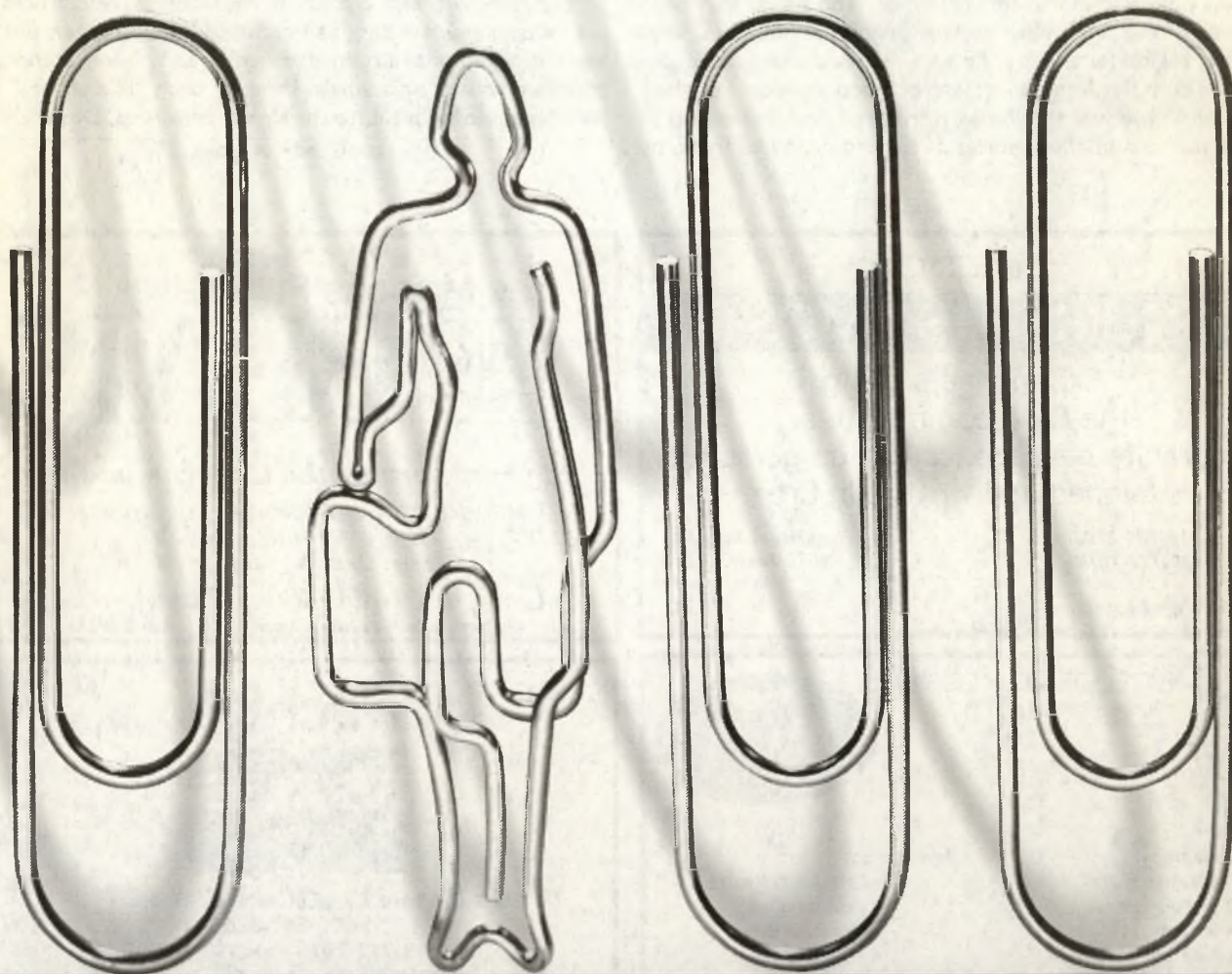
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lent ending of their peaceful march, several national and provincial laws on expropriation were proposed in the following years, which would have allowed indigenous peoples to reclaim their lands. One of the laws led to the expropriation of Kolla lands in Jujuy. Not so in Salta, however, which is governed by conservative, long-established landowners like Patron Costas.

By the 1970s, mechanization of the sugar cane harvest had made the Kollas' labour superfluous, and in the early 1980s, the Tabacal sugar company tried to remove them from San Andres. A new administrator greatly increased their rent payments and forbade them from bringing construction material into the finca to prevent them from building houses in three newly-formed villages. To this aim, he set up a locked gate at the entrance of the finca to which only he had the key. Having to ask for permission to enter their own land finally rekindled the land struggle.

With the help of a lawyer and three protest marches to the provincial capital of Salta, the Kollas forced the sugar factory to donate 80,000 hectares in the upper part of the finca to the province to be handed over to the Kollas. There was, however, one condition: that they empty the remaining lower part where the most fertile lands are located. The Kollas, remembering a winter in which the administrator forced them to remain in the upper part and in which many of them had lost great numbers of their livestock, knew this would mean their slow extinction and could not accept the donation under this condition. This dispute is before the courts until today.

Still empty-handed, the Kollas decided to take their struggle right back to the national capital and went to Buenos Aires once again in 1993, where they met with President Carlos Menem. In the same year a national law was passed expropriating 15,000 hectares in the lower part of the finca, which now belongs to the Kollas, although the titles to this land have not yet been handed over to them.

In 1996, Tabacal declared bankruptcy and passed into the hands of the national government, which sold the majority of its shares to the U.S.-based company Seaboard Corp. "They sold us once again, just like 60 years ago," dryly commented Kolla leader Serafina Cruz, who is president of their political organization, called Tinkunaku. A new company administrator, Miguel Montalban Smith, continued attempts to displace the Kollas, experience for which he had acquired, in his own words, in Chiapas. Soon after his arrival, according to local witnesses, he started destroying the Kollas' property, stealing their animals, sabotaging their work until taking physical actions against them and threatening their lives. In June 1997, the Kollas had enough and blocked the only road leading to San Andres, allowing Montalban to pass on foot only.

On June 26, 1996, provincial police attacked the Kollas, many of them women with babies, with tear gas and rubber bullets in order to lift the roadblock. Prepared to die rather than give in, the Kollas defended themselves with stones and bare fists. Montalban left the area later, as the result of still another march to Buenos Aires.

BUT THE KOLLAS were not allowed to enjoy their victory for long. In the beginning of this year construction of a pipeline began to transport natural gas from the province's east to copper mines in northern Chile. The pipeline passes right through the finca. It is



Feeding the Pachamama on August 1.

being financed by an international consortium called Consortium Norandina S.A., which consists of Belgium, U.S., Spanish and Chilean firms. Greenpeace Argentine supports the Kollas' demand for the pipeline to be rerouted, saying it endangers one of Argentina's last remaining mountain rainforests. Greenpeace also questions the insufficient environmental-impact studies that, it says, neglect the pipeline's social and cultural impacts, treating the finca as uninhabited territory.

After a series of legal injunctions, a federal judge ruled that the pipeline's impact would be minimal and negligible. In the beginning of August, the caterpillars of Techint, the company hired for the construction, entered the finca, leaving a trail of 12 metres in width in the middle of the rainforest by uprooting trees in their entirety. The pipeline also cuts through the middle of the village of San Andres, and originally threatened several cemeteries and archaeological sites, though it will now go around due to the Kollas' mobilization. The pipeline crosses a mountain range and the river San Andres several times, and the Kollas fear the river, which greatly swells with the summer rains and carries large rocks, might damage the pipes, which are only buried at a depth of one metre. They are also afraid of mountain slides and soil erosion which will damage their fields, as well as the massive presence of strangers in the finca.

Their struggle included meetings with government officials, a trip of Kolla leader Serafina Cruz to Belgium to denounce the pipeline's impact at the Belgium consortium partner's annual shareholder meeting, as well as a protest camp set up near the construction site. These efforts met with great resistance from Salta's provincial government and the population of Oran, whose inhabitants are in favour of the pipeline because of the jobs Techint promised to create.

Public opinion was also incited by Radio Guemes, a local radio station notorious for its racist programming, which at the height of the dispute called for physical actions against the Kollas. "They are slowly killing us," said Eucebio Condori, one of the Kolla leaders. "Little by little they are tightening the noose around our necks. They are leaving us orphans without land, and without land we will simply disappear."

The Kollas' struggle is far from over, and with plans of Seaboard to develop tourism in San Andres the next confrontation looms large on the horizon. In the face of ever-more-powerful adversaries, it sometimes seems hard to keep hopes up, but knowing that they are not fighting alone and that other nations in the Americas, like the Crees of James Bay, have managed to stop large-scale development projects, helps them continue their struggle.



Kolla delegation meets Argentinian President Carlos Menem.

HOCKEY NEWS



Here she is!!! Beloved hockey columnist Dolores Audet-Washipabano enjoying some much-needed time off at an undisclosed vacation spot.



Here he is! Miles Cowboy, profiled in a previous issue of *Hockey News*.

GO WOLVERINES!

(Taken from *Aboriginal Voices*, Oct. 98)

The Wawayseecappo First Nation celebrated recently with the unveiling of its entry into the Manitoba Junior Hockey League (MJHL). The Wolverines will be actively participating in the MJHL in the 1999/2000 hockey season.

Ted Nolan, 1997 NHL Coach of the Year, was on hand to congratulate Wawayseecappo for its new team. He stressed to the people the importance of goal-setting for the young people.

"Hopefully, we will see more and more First Nations people in the National Hockey League," Nolan said.

He added that junior hockey leagues are a recruiting ground for the NHL and teams like the Wolverines will play a key role in developing First Nations players for the National League.

GAME SCHEDULE

Ontario Hockey League "Belleville Bulls" (Jonathan Cheechoo)

Nov. 21 - Sarnia vs Belleville - 7:30 p.m. in Belleville

Nov. 26 - Belleville vs Erie - 7:30 p.m. in Erie

Nov. 27 - Belleville vs Mississauga - 7:30 p.m. in Miss.

Nov. 28 - Kingston vs Belleville - 7:30 p.m. in Belleville

Midget "AAA" Forestiers d'Amos (Charly W. & Ryan W.)

Nov. 21 - Amos vs Magog - 2 p.m. in Magog

Nov. 22 - Amos vs Gatineau - 1 p.m. in Gatineau

Nov. 28 - Montreal Bourassa vs Amos - 7 p.m. IN CHISASIBI

Nov. 29 - Montreal Bourassa vs Amos - 1 p.m. IN CHISASIBI

Don't miss it!!!

Midget "AA" Chibougamau Ambassadeurs (Wesley Trapper, Jordan Coonishish, Jerry Matoush)

Nov. 21 - Jonquière vs Chibougamau - 8 p.m. in Chibougamau

Nov. 22 - Jonquière vs Chibougamau - 2 p.m. in Chibougamau

Nov. 28 - La Baie vs Chibougamau - 8 p.m. in Chibougamau

Nov. 29 - La Baie vs Chibougamau - 2 p.m. in Chibougamau

Bantam "CC" - Cree Nation Bears!!

Nov. 21 - Bears vs Ste-Germaine - 6 p.m. in Ste-Germaine

Nov. 22 - Bears vs Quévillon - 3 p.m.

in Quévillon

Nov. 28 - Quévillon vs Bears - 12 p.m. in Mistissini

Nov. 29 - Bears vs Chibougamau - 12 p.m. in Chibougamau

Bantam "CC" Citoyens Hull (Eric Snowboy and Stanley Swallow)

Nov. 21 Forestiers vs Citoyens - 7:20 p.m. in Sabourin arena

Nov. 26 - Citoyens vs Voisins - 6:50 p.m. in Masson-Angers arena

Nov. 28 - Loups vs Citoyens - 7 p.m. in Sabourin arena

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CLASSIFIEDS

101-BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to our old friend Peggy R. Petawabano on Nov. 14, 1998. back in the day we talked about Menudo and Bon Jovi, then it was about what to wear in order to hide everything that was starting to fall out. Now it's about wrinkles and cellulite. We hate to think about what's next! Must get together very soon to do some serious celebrating before we all turn into old bags. RPB, TM, ES, PM, JMP, MLP, CP, LS.

I would like to wish Angela House a very happy birthday. Enjoy your special day on Nov. 15. Take care. From a friend.

Happy birthday to a special sister of mine celebrating her 17th

birthday on Nov. 5, 98. I will always be there for you if you need a babysitter. Especially on your birthday. Sike! Hope you had a great time on your birthday. Have fun. From your sister who's always there for you.

Happy belated 5th birthday to my son Michael Kawapit in Whapmagoostui on Sept. 28. Hope you had a wonderful birthday party and lots more to come. I love you very much and looking forward to seeing you soon. Lots of hugs and kisses from mom (Hull)

Happy belated birthday to my mom Eliza on Aug. 2. Robbie on Aug. 31, My sister Frances on Sept. 14 and Randy on Sept. 10. Also happy birthday to Jeannie on Oct. 12 and Mina on Oct. 16 in

Whapmagoostui. Hope you all enjoyed your birthdays. Betsy. (Hull)
Happy 12th birthday to Amanda Cheezo on Nov. 15. Best wishes and many more to come. Love, mom and dad.

Happy belated birthday to Paulette Snowboy on Sept. 24, 98. And to Sherilyn Snowboy on October 21, 98. From everyone at granma and grandpa Snowboy's place.

Happy birthday to my friend Amy Zachary who will be turning 13 on Nov. 4. Have fun on your birthday. PS Don't be scared of my finger. From one of your neighbors! You know who.

Happy birthday to our friend and cousin Lorianne Mianscum on Nov. 15, 98. I hope you are enjoying

school in Cornwall. We miss you and hope to see you soon. When you get back, we'll take you out to a restaurant on your birthday for some good poutine. Patricia and Andrea.

Happy birthday to Roland Snowboy on Nov. 17 and to our other teenage son who turned 13 on October 20. Gabriel Snowboy. Happy birthday to you two. We love you both very much. Love always, from your parents and family, Clarence and Barbara, brothers and sisters.

This birthday greeting goes out to a special young man. His birthday is on Nov. 17 and his name is Roland. Love and kisses to you. From your girlfriend cluster C11- hse. 15.

Happy birthday to Michael on Nov. 18, Terry on Nov. 21 and Diane on Nov. 19. Love you all so much. From grandma Nellie. PS Michael, visit me more often, you always make me laugh.

Happy birthday to my first grandchild George on Nov. 8. May happy returns on the day. You're #1 in my heart always. Love always from your grandma Nellie.

Happy belated birthday to my cousins Allen Michel Snowboy, his birthday was on Oct. 15. Hope you had fun on your birthday and many more to come. Love always, Lucie Snowboy.

Happy birthday to my brother Jason Snowboy Jr. on Nov. 8. happy birthday and many more to come. May all your dreams come true. don't miss a lot of school like me. PS Have fun on your birthday and don't party too much. Love always, your sis Lucie Ann.

Happy birthday to a good friend of mine who has always been there for me. She will be turning 13 on Nov. 4. Happy birthday Amy Zachary! I

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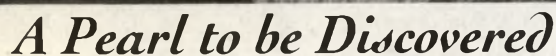
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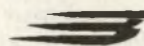


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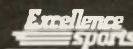
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CLASSIFIEDS

would also like to wish my lovable sister dawn Ottereyes happy birthday she will be turning 17 on Nov. 2nd, happy birthday sis. Love ya. Have fun on your birthday. I would also like to wish Lance Blacksmith a happy birthday on Oct. 29th. Happy birthday Lance. Hi to a few friends of mine Maxine Mark-Stewart, Jamie Blacksmith, Amy Zachary, Kevin Brousseau, Robin Richmond, Jonathan Saganash, Sheila Aoudla and Rhonda Amarulik. Sorry Rhoda if I spelt your last name wrong. From Stephanie Richmond. Val d'Or.

Happy birthday to the following people whom we love dearly Mrs. Tammy P. Coon, Little Ariel Cookie Coon and Mrs. Natalie L. Matoush. We hope your birthdays are memorable and we wish you the very best in your new years and the years following. god bless you all. All our love and admiration. Kippy, Bella, Boojoo Boy. xoxoxoxo.

This special birthday greeting goes out to a very special whom I have the honor of calling my husband, Clifford Loon aka Kippy, who will be celebrating his birthday on

Nov. 13. Kippy in all the time we've been together, you've brought me joy, love and most of all, you've given me your heart and your everlasting love. We've recently been honored with the blessing of a beautiful baby and although I thank God for him every day, I believe you also deserve my greatest thanks. I wish you the very best in life and a very happy birthday and I'm sure id f your soon were old enough to talk he'd wish you a happy birthday as well. I love you Kip!!! from your wife Bella.

Happy belated birthday to Darryl Spencer on Oct. 19. He is in Chisasibi (I think) Hope you remember last year. Better late than never right? can we still be friends. your forever in my heart. as friends. From Jessica Moore (Sudbury).

Happy belated birthday to my cuz Tanya Cooper on Oct. 17 and to Maggie Icebound on Nov. ? Bean I didn't forget your birthday. But I think I forgot the day. Sorry. Barbie heard you had a blast. How old are you now? You girls have fun

with life don't put it to waste. Hi girls. From Jessica Moore (Sudbury). Wish I was there. miss you all.

102-WEDDINGS

Congratulations to our friends Suzie and Walter on their wedding on Oct. 9, 98. We hope you'll have a wonderful life together and wish you both all the best life has to offer! From Susan, Billy, Brayven and Breena.

Congratulations to my friend in Great Whale, Sherry Ann Fireman and Solomon Atchiniya on their wedding, Sept. 10, 98. Best wishes and have a wonderful life together. love and friendship, a friend in Chisasibi. You know who. PS. Take good care of you beautiful girl Savannah. I hear she was so cute wearing the same dress as you.

300-PERSONALS

To a very special person whom I love. My feelings for you are still very strong even though at times I seem to do or say things that hurt you in some way. I pretend to say that this a joke or it means so much to me just knowing that

you're with me. I still love you very much and I wish I knew how you felt. So I'd know where I stand. Love always, RSD.

Hello to someone I really miss, Isaac Petagumskum in Whap. So, hello! Bye. See you soon. Luv, LS (chis.)

Hello to my friend in Whap April George. Write to me or call me. Miss you. Don't party too much! Friend, Lucie Snowboy.

As I go through daily routines, I notice a special occasion is coming up on Nov. 2. I find my self fantasizing about me being with you on your birthday. I tell myself, if only I had spoken sooner, letting all my feelings known. We had a lot of great times, when we would just talk. I feel it's my fault, otherwise we would be together on our birthdays. This is a special birthday wish to you from me, wishing it could be more. Always remember me even though we can't talk or see each other.

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